as well as the rental terms, on the expiry of each contract, and dehires the excess storage space, wherever found feasible.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (d) above.

Two child norm

†*188. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to follow two child norm in the family to control the population of the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that several State Governments in the country have taken steps to follow the above norm; and

(d) if so, the names of the States and the steps taken by them in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables a couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion. They are free to decide the size of their family. The policy of the Government is to promote small family norm without prescribing any number of children.

(c) and (d) The Government has advised States/UTs to formulate their State Population Policy with State specific strategies maintaining the general spirit of voluntary and non-coercive approach as envisaged in National Population Policy, 2000.

However, certain States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Rajasthan, Orissa and Delhi have adopted policies based on two child norm. The measures adopted by the States include provisions for disqualifying persons having more

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

than two living children from becoming elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities; limiting the maternity leave to Government employees upto two children; extending 1/2 per cent lower rate of interest on house building advance; granting special pay equal to one increment to Government employees for undergoing sterilisation with not more than two living children; restricting entry into Government service and subsequent promotions/facility for availing loans to persons having not more than two living children.

The Union Government has requested all the States/UTs to review such compelling provisions contained in their State Population Policy and to bring them in consonance with the spirit of the National Population Policy.

Privatisation of FCI

*189. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to privatise Food Corporation of India (FCI) through McKinsey and Company and other private agencies; -

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what about the service conditions of FCI employees and the labourers?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. .

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Service conditions of FCI employees are governed by the provisions of the FCI (Staff) Regulations, 1971 made in exercise of the powers conferred under section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964, while the service conditions of FCI labour are governed by the certified/model Standing Orders (SO) framed under the Industrial Employment (SO) Act, 1946.